

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on
February 26, 2013 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Carrie or Derek at Westfield City Services Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

February 26, 2013

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Introduction of new Fire Chief, Jason Lemons
- III. Presentation - HAND (Hamilton County Area Neighborhood Development)
- IV. Q&A with Mayor Cook
- V. Discussion on snow plowing in neighborhoods - City vs. private contractor



I. Welcome

Jim Ake welcomed everyone and introduced himself. Room went around and introduced themselves one at a time. Jim asked for future feedback on the location change from City Hall to the City Services Center.

II. Introduction of new Fire Chief, Jason Lemons

Jim introduced Jason Lemons, Westfield Fire Chief. Lemons will be replacing Todd Burtron, who has been serving dual roles as Mayor's Chief of Staff and Fire Chief for the past 18 months. Burtron will remain Mayor's Chief of Staff.

Fire Chief Lemons, a 23 year veteran of the fire service, will lead the 72 member Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Department. Within the department, he has held the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain and Deputy Fire Chief.

His educational background includes an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management, and he holds numerous State and Federal certifications. He has been an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) since 1992 and an Advanced EMT since 1997. He served as the departments Technical Rescue Team Leader from its inception in 2008 and is currently a member of Indiana Task Force One.

He is a member of the National Fire Protection Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, Indiana Fire Instructors Association, Board

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member for IVY Tech Community College Public Safety Program, and is an elected official and Board President for Harrison Township Advisory Board.

Lemons and his wife Tonya have two children, Brooke and Ben.

Lemons went over the organizational structure of the Fire Department and the service they provide to the community.

A couple questions were asked of Chief Lemons:

Q: Where can people find information on Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT)?

A: Interested residents can contact Rob Gaylor with the Westfield Fire Department at 317-804-3333 or email rgaylor@westfield.in.gov

Q: What can neighborhoods do to make the Fire Departments job easier when responding to an emergency?

A: Do not block hydrants/ Make sure inside of homes are easy to navigate in the case of an emergency. A situation where the home is occupied by hoarder makes removing victim or putting out fire extremely difficult.

III. Presentation - HAND (Hamilton County Area Neighborhood Development

Nate Lichti, executive director of the Hamilton County Area Neighborhood (HAND) spoke about the housing needs of Hamilton County.

HAND is in the process of completing a housing needs assessment and a strategic plan. As a part of these processes they are seeking input from residents in Hamilton County. This information will be used to identify the housing needs in the county for planning and funding purposes for HAND. Any information from the surveys will be used in the aggregate only and individual responses will not be identified.

They are asking residents complete a short survey before March 15th. The survey link is: www.surveymonkey.com/s/7SC3Z7V or visit their website at www.handincorporated.org.

IV. Q & A with Mayor Cook

Mayor began by announcing that economic development numbers are up in Westfield. According to BAGI (Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis) Westfield had the most permits in Indiana. Filings with the plan commission are back up to 2007 levels – pre-recession.

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Mayor also spoke on action taking place out at Grand Park. He said that 41 tournaments have already been scheduled for 2014 through Indiana Soccer and the Indiana Bulls.

Q: What's happening at Walnut Ridge subdivision?

A: Beazer homes has made changes to zoning commitments

Q: Thoughts on regional transportation bill working its way through the statehouse?

A: The bill passed through the House. The bill, which would put an advisory referendum on the November 2014 ballot in Marion and Hamilton and surrounding counties, now heads to the Senate for a vote. The referendum would authorize the creation of a transit authority and a .3 percent income tax increase in participating counties.

Q: What City department has the authority to capture and dispose of unwanted animals?

A: Wally Sitzes with our Police Department. Police also work with Public Works crew if needed.

Q: Is there a program for connecting sidewalks like the gap near Viking Meadows?

A: Melody Jones, Parks Director, has identified gaps and they are a part of her plan. The city did partner with Merrimac and Centennial to add sidewalks along Spring Mill Road. That was a 50/50 contribution to the cost of the sidewalks. Any new neighborhood is required to provide trail along the road.

Q: Is there any planning ahead to have trails run under US31? What about the pedestrian tunnel under SR32?

A: Not really, running trails under US31 is too expensive. Yes, the pedestrian tunnel under SR32 will happen with the building of Grand Junction.

Mayor let the group know that 161st street will be closed around US31 beginning April 1st for several months. More details to follow at next WeCAN meeting.

V. Discussion on snow plowing in neighborhoods - City vs. private contractor

Jim Ake began the discussion by explaining the current plowing system that the public works department uses. They use a quadrant system. Each driver starts in their quadrant and plows all streets before beginning again. The City has a clear understanding of privately plowed areas. Residents call into city and wonder why they haven't been plowed, when it's a privately plowed neighborhood causing residents to become upset with the City's plowing.

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There are no standards in place for private plowers. Therefore, residents aren't always receiving the high standards that the City sets forth for its own plowers. In the case of private plowers, they can typically get into neighborhoods quicker.

Jim says that the new Public Works Director, Ken Alexander, will be at the March 26th meeting to finish the discussion. At that time, Jim will make a proposal on allowing private plower in neighborhoods while keeping with the high standards of the City.

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, March 26th, at 7pm** at the Westfield City Services Center in the Main Level Media Room.

If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don't hesitate to contact us at communications@westfield.in.gov.

For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: www.westfield.in.gov – under “Community” tab